Sanitary Landfill Recommended

The City has been contemplating the replacement of the present dump with a sanitary land fill operation. This move is encouraged by the North Carolina State Board of Health, which condemns dumps as breeding grounds for flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, and rats and the diseases that they carry.

The sanitary land fill is a special procedure for daily burial of unseparated refuse. Describing the sanitary landfill as "the cheapest satisfactory method of refuse disposal for cities with population under 100,000", the State Board lists these advantages of the landfill method:

1. No breeding places for insects or rodents are created.
2. Fire hazards are eliminated.
3. Smoke and odors do not result from the operation.
4. It is not necessary to separate the types of material. This permits the combined collection of all refuse.
5. The beauty of the landscape is not adversely affected.
6. Adjacent property values are not diminished.
7. Reclamation of useless land is frequently possible to provide sites for playgrounds, parking lots and other purposes.
8. Lack of uniformity in the quantity of refuse disposed of daily does not interfere with efficient operation.
9. Landfill area can be put into operation quickly.
10. Shorter hauls are usually possible.

The details of the sanitary landfill operation may vary to fit the particular site and the equipment used, but essentially the method consists of having the refuse truck dump their loads into trenches dug through a small part of the site. At the end of the working day, a member of a truck crew drives a crawler tracter over the refuse to compact it, then covers it with a layer of earth which in turn is compacted. The covering of earth provides a dog, insect, rat, and odor-proof barrier. The compacting process eliminates the possibility of the ground sinking after rainfall and reduces the amount of land required to handle the refuse.

1. Equipment: The State Board of Health says that for communities of 5,000 population or more "heavy crawler-type tractors", equipped with clam-like devices for scooping up and carrying earth, are usually the best adapted. Experience indicates that for populations up to 15,000 such a unit with a capacity of 1 cubic yard is sufficient. "For populations of 15,000 to 30,000, one unit of 2 cubic yards capacity should be purchased." If consulted, the Sanitary Engineering Division of the State Board will direct local authorities to vendors of suitable rebuilt tractors which cost considerably less than new equipment.